

September 13, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW,  
Suite 200 Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Food For The Poor, our 5.4 million donors and, most importantly, those who live in extreme poverty (less than US\$2 per day) in 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. As the second largest international charity in the US (Chronicle of Philanthropy), we have relied for the last 35 years on the U.S. Mail to raise funds and communicate with our supporters and those we serve.

As a matter of fact, direct mail still holds first place of all our 13 fundraising departments, earning our mission more than 50% of its net revenue. Without the mail, our fundraising would suffer severely and, as a consequence, so would our mission.

Frankly, the increase above CPI seems facetious and whimsical. At a time in our history when the government is looking to cut spending on foreign aid and local programs, it seems almost cruel to reduce the efficiency of those who would take up the slack – the nonprofit sector.

The USPS is unreasonable in asking to inject unanticipated increases that would be outside of our budget and our careful planning. We will definitely not be able to afford to mail as much, our income will decline materially and our net will suffer a tremendous blow. Our net income is not a matter of bragging rights; it is what allows us to save the lives of children who are at risk of death from starvation, from drinking contaminated water and from lack of medicines and medical care.

We have in Haiti alone over 3,000 selfless missionaries that depend on us to be able to distribute goods and services to their communities. Although last year our aid to our countries almost hit one billion dollars, it still could not cover even a fraction of the need. To take an action that would reduce our aid as substantially as this increase would, would create for us the horrible situation of having to turn down beneficiaries who for years have depended on our help.

Would you, Commissioners, relish the thought of having to choose which children would live and which would die? The question is rhetorical, but I ask you to give serious consideration to the consequences the proposed increase would have.

If our postage rates were to increase, say, 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue, we would not be able to impact on your programs (provide specific examples). Respectfully, we ask you to consider these consequences due to the immediate harm to our programs.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates. Implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago, we see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofit organizations using the mail. Nonprofit organizations are the least able to absorb such increases as they work in areas that benefit our society and the world as a whole.

I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

For the poor,

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